

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 191942Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6679

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: VICARIATE FOR SOLIDARITY TO REPLACE COMMITTEE FOR PEACE

REF: 75 SANTIAGO 8503

1. ON JANUARY 16 SANTIAGO ARCHBISHOPRIC ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A VICARIATE FOR SOLIDARITY (REFTEL). STATEMENT SAID VICARIATE WILL COORDINATE ALL CHURCH SERVICES AND DEPARTMENTS WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN SOCIAL WORKS WITHIN SANTIAGO ARCH-BISHOPRIC: CARITAS PROGRAMS; WORKS OF HUMAN ADVANCEMENT AND SERVICES INVOLVING ASSISTANCE AND HOPE, "AS FOR EXAMPLE, HUMANITARIAN/LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND POLYCLINICS AND EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED." THESE ACTIVITIES WILL REPORTEDLY BE DEVELOPED THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE VICARAGE ZONES.

2. COMMUNICATION SAID EX-PEACE COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CRISTIAN PRECHT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED EPISCOPAL VICAR IN CHARGE OF NEW VICARIATE.

3. VICARIATE WILL BEGIN TO FUNCTION JANUARY 22 AT 444 PLAZA DE ARMAS, NEXT TO THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO.

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4. COMMENT: PRECHT AND OTHERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY TOLD US NEW

VICARIATE WOULD ASSUME MAJORITY OF PEACE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING THE DOCUMENTATION OF DETENTIONS AND MONTHLY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DETAINEE FLOWS. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED THAT MANY ON COMMITTEE STAFF WOULD MOVE TO VICARIATE'S BUT THAT EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO GIVE THE NEW ORGANIZATION A MORE RELIGIOUS AND LESS POLITICAL FLAVOR. WE WOULD EXPECT IT TO OPERATE SOMEWHAT MORE DISCREETLY THAN PEACE COMMITTEE IN ITS LAST STAGES. IT MAY ALSO BE SOMEWHAT LESS FORCEFUL, AND IT WILL NOT OF COURSE HAVE THE COMMITTEE'S ECUMENICAL COVER.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

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